

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1 - 15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A mentation test apparatus comprising:

a display means for displaying images by electronic control;

a transparent touch panel overlaid on ~~[[the]]~~ a screen of the display means;

an image control means for randomly disposing and displaying a given number of targets to be pointed to in a prescribed order on the screen by controlling the display means, and for erasing the targets that have been pointed to in a correct order when a test subject points to the ~~target~~ targets by pressing ~~[[the]]~~ a position corresponding to each target on the touch panel in a prescribed order;

a time counter for measuring ~~[[the]]~~ a search response time required ~~[[for]]~~ by the test subject for searching each of the targets in a correct order, ~~and/or~~ and the search response time required ~~[[for]]~~ by the test subject for searching the ~~[[a]]~~ given number of targets ~~arranged in a~~ in correct sequential order, and a processing means for calculating the mentation of the test subject based on the search response ~~[[time]]~~ times measured by the time counter and the sequential order.

17. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the image control means comprises a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display ~~[[the]]~~ dummy targets at the positions where the targets have been erased or at random positions in place of the targets that have been erased.

18. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the image control means comprises a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display the dummy targets being different in at least one of the color, shape and size in place of the targets that have been erased.

19. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to any one of Claims 16 to 18, wherein the image control means comprises a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display ~~[[the]]~~ marks indicating the sequential order of pointing as the targets or in addition to the targets, and for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display ~~[[the]]~~ marks other than the marks that have been already displayed as dummy targets in place of the erased targets ~~at the positions of the targets that have been erased or at random positions, or in addition to the positions of the targets that have been erased or in addition to the randomly displayed dummy targets.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to any one of Claims 16 to 18 wherein the image control means ~~comprise~~ comprises a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display each target that has not been pointed to yet by changing ~~[[its]]~~ a display position of the target every time ~~[[when]]~~ the other targets have been pointed in a correct order.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A mentation test apparatus ~~according to Claim 16 comprising:~~

a display means for displaying images by electronic control;

a transparent touch panel overlaid on a screen of the display means;

an image control means for randomly disposing and displaying a given number of targets to be pointed to in a prescribed order on the screen by controlling the display means, and for erasing the targets that have been pointed to in a correct order when a test subject points to the targets by pressing a position corresponding to each target on the touch panel in a prescribed order; and

a time counter for measuring a search response time required by the test subject for searching each of the targets in a correct order and the search response time required by the test subject for searching the given number of targets in correct sequential order, and a processing means for calculating the mentation of the test subject based on the search response times measured by the time counter;

wherein the image control means includes comprising :

a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target having a different color at the position of the target in place of the target that has been erased;

a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions in place of the target that has been erased;

a function for ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target has been pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions in place of the target that has been erased, while ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to display each target and dummy target by changing their display positions; and

a selection means for making any one of the functions effective, wherein the mentation age of the test subject's brain is calculated by the processing means based on the search response time measured by the time counter in ~~[[the]]~~ a test using each function.

22. (Cancel)

23. (Cancel)

24. (Currently Amended) The mentation test ~~method~~ apparatus according to

Claim 16 comprising:

an image control means for executing, in a prescribed order, [[the]]

a test 1 in which a given number of the targets to be pointed in a prescribed order are displayed on the screen of the display means by being randomly distributed, the test subject is requested to point each target in a prescribed order, and a dummy target having a different color from the target is displayed in place of the pointed target at the position of the pointed target when the target is pointed in a correct order;

a test 2 by ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to ~~erasing~~ erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target on the screen at random positions in place of the target that has been erased, and [[the]]

a test 3 by ~~allowing~~ controlling the display means to erase a target from the screen when the target is pointed in a correct order, and to display a dummy target at random positions on the screen in place of the target that has been erased, while ~~allowing~~ controlling

the display means to display each target and dummy target by changing their display positions;

a processing means for calculating the degree of contraction of the search response time by a working memory for parallel processing of search and memory of positions based on the search response time of each target measured by the time counter in each test; and

a diagnosis means for diagnosing presence of dementia or prediction probability of onset of dementia based on the calculation results.

25. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 24, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the search response time for each target in each test measured by the time counter after completing the entire ~~[[tests]]~~ test.

26. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 24 or 25, wherein the image control means allows the display means to display the results of diagnosis by the diagnosis means after completing the entire ~~[[tests]]~~ test.

27. (Currently Amended) The mentation test apparatus according to Claim 16 further comprising a printer for printing ~~[[the]]~~ test results.